



HR1423

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives wish to congratulate Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson,
4 Sr. on the occasion of his 75th birthday on October 8, 2016;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. was born on October 8,
7 1941 in Greenville, South Carolina; he graduated from public
8 schools in Greenville and then enrolled at the University of
9 Illinois on a football scholarship; he later transferred to
10 North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
11 graduating in 1964; he began his theological studies at Chicago
12 Theological Seminary but deferred his studies when he began
13 working full-time in the civil rights movement with Dr. Martin
14 Luther King, Jr.; he was ordained on June 30, 1968 and received
15 his earned Master of Divinity degree from the Chicago
16 Theological Seminary in 2000; and

17 WHEREAS, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. began his activism as a
18 student in the summer of 1960 when he sought to desegregate the
19 local public library in Greenville and served as a leader in
20 the sit-in movement; in 1965, he became a full-time organizer
21 for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; he was soon
22 appointed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to direct the
23 Operation Breadbasket program; and

1 WHEREAS, In December 1971, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. founded
2 Operation PUSH (People United to Serve Humanity) in Chicago
3 with the goals of economic empowerment and expanding
4 educational, business, and employment opportunities for the
5 disadvantaged and people of color; in 1984, he founded the
6 National Rainbow Coalition, a social justice organization
7 based in Washington, D.C. that is devoted to political
8 empowerment, education, and changing public policy; in
9 September 1996, the Rainbow Coalition and Operation PUSH merged
10 to form the Rainbow PUSH Coalition to continue the work of both
11 organizations; and

12 WHEREAS, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.'s presidential campaigns
13 in 1984 and 1988 broke new ground in United States politics;
14 his 1984 campaign registered over one million new voters, won
15 3.5 million votes, and helped the Democratic Party regain
16 control of the Senate in 1986; his 1988 campaign registered
17 over two million new voters, won seven million votes, and
18 helped boost hundreds of state and local elected officials into
19 office; he also won historic victories, coming in first or
20 second in 46 of 54 primary contests; and

21 WHEREAS, On November 2, 1985, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
22 joined with Oliver Tambo, Bishop Trevor Huddleston, Ken
23 Livingston, Bernie Grant, Keith Vaz, Paul Boateng, future

1 member of parliament Diane Abbot, and others at the
2 120,000-strong demonstration in London's Trafalgar Square to
3 protest apartheid in South Africa and call upon the South
4 African government to free Nelson Mandela; he later met with
5 Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, appealing to her to end
6 Britain's support for apartheid; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1991, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. was elected to
8 serve as Senator of Washington, D.C., where he advocated for
9 statehood for the nation's capital and advanced the "rainbow"
10 agenda at the national and international levels; since then, he
11 has continued to promote voter registration and lead
12 get-out-the-vote campaigns, believing that everyone should be
13 encouraged to be a responsible, informed, and active voter; he
14 has also spearheaded major organizing tours through
15 Appalachia, Mississippi, California, and Georgia; and

16 WHEREAS, In October 1997, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. was
17 appointed by President Bill Clinton and then-Secretary of State
18 Madeleine Albright, as "Special Envoy of the President and
19 Secretary of State for the Promotion of Democracy in Africa";
20 in this capacity, he traveled to several countries in Africa
21 and met with national leaders such as President Nelson Mandela
22 of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Daniel T. Arap
23 Moi of Kenya, and President Frederick J.T. Chiluba of Zambia;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, On February 16, 2003, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. was
2 the keynote speaker at a rally held in London's Hyde Park with
3 over one million people protesting the expected invasion of
4 Iraq by the United States; in August 2007, Equanomics UK
5 invited him to help launch the new organization in a historic
6 nine-city United Kingdom tour; the tour coincided with the
7 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Slave Trade Act in
8 Britain, including the official Greater London Authority
9 ceremony with Mayor Ken Livingston; at the conclusion of the
10 tour, he joined international dignitaries at the unveiling of a
11 statue of Nelson Mandela in London's Parliament Square; and

12 WHEREAS, In January 2008, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. delivered
13 the international keynote address on the life and philosophy of
14 Mahatma Gandhi at an event in New Delhi, India marking the 50th
15 anniversary of Gandhi's martyrdom; the global event celebrated
16 the strength of non-violent, peaceful protest that Gandhi
17 demonstrated in his uncompromising quest for peace and justice;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Due to his status as a highly respected and
20 trusted world leader, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. has acted as an
21 international diplomat in many sensitive situations; in 1984,
22 he secured the release of captured Navy Lieutenant Robert
23 Goodman from Syria and the release of 48 Cuban and

1 Cuban-American prisoners from Cuba; he was the first American
2 to bring home citizens of the United Kingdom, France, and other
3 countries who were held as "human shields" by Saddam Hussein in
4 Kuwait and Iraq in 1990; in 1999, he negotiated the release of
5 United States soldiers held hostage in Kosovo; in August 2000,
6 he helped negotiate the release of four journalists working on
7 a documentary for Britain's BBC 4 network who were held in
8 Liberia; he has traveled extensively in the Middle East and
9 Asia and was a special guest of President Fernando Cardoso of
10 Brazil in honoring Zumbi, the leader of slave revolts that led
11 to the end of slavery in Brazil; and

12 WHEREAS, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. has been a consistent and
13 vigorous supporter of the labor movement in the United States
14 and around the world and has walked more picket lines and
15 spoken at more labor rallies than any other national leader; he
16 has worked with unions to organize workers, protect workers'
17 rights, and mediate labor disputes; in 1996, he traveled to
18 Asia to investigate treatment of workers in the Japanese
19 automobile industry and in athletic apparel factories in
20 Indonesia; and

21 WHEREAS, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. frequently lectures at
22 major colleges and universities, including Howard University,
23 Yale University, Princeton University, Morehouse College,
24 Harvard University, Columbia University, Stanford University,

1 and Hampton University; he continues to be a leading advocate
2 for a variety of public policy issues, including universal
3 health care, equal administration of justice in all
4 communities, sufficient funding for enforcement of civil
5 rights laws, and for increased attention to business investment
6 in under-served domestic communities, a theme that the Clinton
7 administration incorporated in the "New Markets Initiative";
8 he also supports a broad range of policies to improve
9 education, eliminate poverty, and remind everyone that we are a
10 "One-Big-Tent-America", with room for all and with no one left
11 in the margins; he spearheads the campaign of "Restructure
12 Loans, Don't Foreclose on Homes", which tackles the housing and
13 economic crises gripping the world; he has also visited
14 thousands of high schools, colleges, universities, and
15 correctional facilities encouraging excellence, inspiring
16 hope, and challenging young people to study diligently and stay
17 drug-free; and

18 WHEREAS, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. has received more than 40
19 honorary doctorate degrees and countless awards and honors for
20 his work in human and civil rights and non-violent social
21 change; in 1991, the United States Postal Service put his
22 likeness on a pictorial postal cancellation, only the second
23 living person to receive such an honor; he has been on the
24 Gallup List of the Ten Most Respected Americans for many years;
25 he has received the prestigious NAACP Spingarn Award in

1 addition to honors from hundreds of grassroots, civic, and
2 community organizations from coast to coast; he was made an
3 Honorary Fellow of Regents Park College at Oxford University in
4 the United Kingdom in November 2007; he received an Honorary
5 Fellowship from Edge Hill University in Liverpool, England; he
6 was inducted into the prestigious Cambridge Union Society in
7 March 2010; he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the
8 University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa in April 2010; on
9 August 9, 2000, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of
10 Freedom, our nation's highest civilian honor, by President Bill
11 Clinton for his work; in 2009, he received the "Global
12 Diversity and Inclusion Award" by British Prime Minister Gordon
13 Brown; and

14 WHEREAS, From 1992 to 2000, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. hosted
15 "Both Sides with Jesse Jackson" on CNN; he continues to write a
16 weekly column of analysis syndicated by the Chicago Tribune/Los
17 Angeles Times; he is the author of "Keep Hope Alive" (1989),
18 and "Straight From the Heart" (1987); with his son, Jesse L.
19 Jackson, Jr., he co-authored the books "Legal Lynching: Racism,
20 Injustice, and the Death Penalty" (1996) and "It's About The
21 Money" (1999); and

22 WHEREAS, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. married his college
23 sweetheart Jacqueline Lavinia Brown in 1963; they have five
24 children, Santita Jackson, Jesse L. Jackson, Jr., Jonathan

1 Luther Jackson, Yusef DuBois Jackson, Esq., and Jacqueline
2 Lavinia Jackson, Jr.; and

3 WHEREAS, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. will celebrate his 75th
4 birthday at an event in his honor on October 8, 2016 at the
5 Rainbow PUSH Coalition's National Headquarters in Chicago; and

6 WHEREAS, Over the past 40 years, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr.
7 has played a pivotal role in virtually every movement for
8 empowerment, peace, civil rights, gender equality, and
9 economic and social justice; his status as the "Conscience of
10 the Nation" and "the Great Unifier" and his ability to bring
11 people together on common ground across lines of race, culture,
12 class, gender, and belief is worthy of the greatest respect;
13 therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
16 congratulate Rev. Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. on the occasion of
17 his 75th birthday and wish him great success and happiness in
18 his future endeavors; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. as a symbol of our esteem
21 and respect.